

### Animas River from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation

Surface water samples were collected on Friday, August 7, 2015, at four (4) locations prior to arrival of the plume, and on Saturday, August 8, 2015, at nine (9) locations after arrival of the plume along the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. Each surface water sample was analyzed for 24 metals, including arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury. The results for the dissolved (filtered) metals surface water samples indicate that all locations on August 7 and 8 were less than the New Mexico water quality standards for aquatic life (acute and chronic), livestock, and irrigation of crops, and the screening levels for recreation. The dissolved metal concentration in surface water represents the fraction of metals that are bioavailable. This bioavailable portion represents the fraction of metals that can cross the gills of fish and the cell membranes of aquatic organisms.